



HALIFAX EXPLOSION
CITY MARKS
ANNIVERSARY OF
DEADLY DAY (page 6)

CHEERS AT THE OVAL
MOLSON COORS
NOW OK'D BY
COUNCIL (page 3)



THE KISS
A LIP-LOCK
FOR EFRON,
PFEIFFER (page 16)



HALIFAX

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Wednesday,
December 7, 2011
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

Silent. No More



► Lindsay Duncan holds a candle during the Not So Silent Vigil at the Company House on Gottingen Street last night.

Remembering the victims

Yesterday was the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. See coverage on Page 7.

City calls timeout for stadium cash

► Facility would have air-supported 'bubble' over the field for year-round use ► Staff say it would be used 300 days a year



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

The stadium is still alive and kicking.

Yesterday council voted 15-5 to ask the Canadian Soccer Association for an extension to the Dec. 31 deadline for a commitment to a stadium. A stadium is the necessary piece in the bid to be a host city for the 2015 Women's World Cup of soccer.

An extension would give HRM the time to chase the province and federal government for funding commitments.

But some councillors argued not enough was being done to secure that funding.

"You've had 10 months to beat down the doors and nobody is knocking," said Coun. Sue Uteck.

She said she's concerned about the recreation budget as it is and that HRM would have to close other recreation facilities in the HRM to pay for a new stadium.

Coun. Steve Adams urged more aggressive tactics when asking for funding. Council has already said HRM would contribute \$20 million but Adams proposed making a motion to commit to one-third funding.

"I want to put it square in their laps," he said. "Here's our money — what say you? Let's do that."

Mayor Peter Kelly said the province and federal government have been waiting for the business case to make a decision on a stadium and now they will have that document. Kelly said he expects to have a definitive answer from them soon. Adams later withdrew his proposal to see "how it plays out."

The final stadium report suggests a 10,00-14,000 minimum permanent-seat stadium would cost \$54.8 to \$71.1 million and the best location would be Dartmouth Crossing off of Commodore Drive. If approved and HRM borrows the \$20 million, it would mean around \$6 more on



"I said, 'Darrell, what's up with the stadium?' He said 'I haven't seen a business case.'"

COUN. GLORIA MCCLUSKEY ON HER RECENT CHAT WITH PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER

the average residential tax bill. Operating deficit costs would add more than \$1 to the average tax bill annually.

Staff told council they would be able to sell advertising and naming rights of the stadium for \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year.



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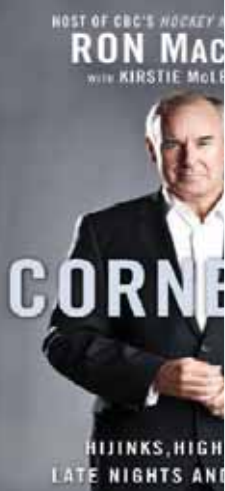
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Council changes tune, OK's beer sponsor

► Events Plaza sponsor Molson Coors gets 13 signs, oval sponsor Emera gets 21-25 signs ► Staff working on policy for alcohol-related companies



JENNIFER
TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Council pulled a 180 yesterday and accepted an offer from Molson Coors for naming rights for the Events Plaza at the oval.

It's a 10-year contract worth \$400,000.

Council previously rejected the offer by a slim margin during an in-camera meeting two weeks ago, but public outrage and debate over alcohol-sponsored community venues, and secret meetings in general, prompted council to take another look.



► Construction continues on the skating oval on the Halifax Common yesterday.



"I feel sick about the whole sponsorship issue and I feel we've sold the people's oval."

COUN. JACKIE BARKHOUSE

Coun. Dawn Sloane asked council for a vote of reconsideration and they agreed — debating for nearly three hours before ap-

proving the sponsorship deal.

It was also made public yesterday that council signed off on Emera's bid of \$500,000 for the naming rights to the oval itself. But the proposed deal was sent back to Emera to make it for 10 years, not 15. Mayor Peter Kelly believes Emera will agree to the terms.

Another ratifying vote on the Emera deal will be needed by council before the deal is set in ink.

But several councillors say HRM is giving away the naming rights too cheaply.

"I don't think this deal gives us fair value for naming rights on what could be our Leaning Tower of Pisa," said Coun. Darren Fisher.

Coun. Jerry Blumenthal said the HRM can't "give it away."

"I'm not fighting the sponsor, but I don't think it's enough," he said.

Kelly told reporters a deal was better than no

deal at all. He added other offers came forward but didn't surpass the offers from Molson and Emera.

Some councillors were worried about the impacts of beer advertising at a public venue. Coun. Gloria McCluskey said many health organizations are against the practice.

"We can't do anything about the Mooseheads hockey team but we can do something about this," she said.

HRM champion skydiver's death ruled a probable suicide: Police

The death of a champion skydiver from HRM whose body was found beneath a cliff in eastern Utah has been ruled a probable suicide.

Dave Brown, who grew up in Dartmouth, vanished on June 29, shortly after leaving his trailer in Moab, Utah.

His remains were found by a hiker four months later on the outskirts of the town in terrain so rough a police detective had to scramble on hands and feet to reach the body.

Moab police Chief Mike Navarre said yesterday that medical examiners believe the 37-year-old killed himself.

Navarre noted that he was reluctant to accept the finding of probable suicide without a note or hard proof.

But he said Brown was going through a divorce and had financial problems.

After dissolving his own skydiving business, Brown moved cross-country to live in a trailer on property of the owner of Skydive Moab.

Brown's shattered remains showed no sign of foul play, Navarre added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1

news


U.S. presidents always seem to go grey quicker than the rest of us, but a new study shows that they may in fact live longer than the rest of us. Scan the code for the story.

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Satisfaction in government increases, slightly

► NDP still polling in majority territory ► Tories place ahead of Liberals for third straight quarter



► Premier Darrell Dexter



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Support for the provincial government under Premier Darrell Dexter is increasing, a new poll suggests.

According to a new survey released yesterday by Halifax-based Corporate Research Associates, 55 per cent of respondents were either mostly satisfied (50 per cent) or completely satisfied (five per cent) with

the performance of the NDP. That's up seven per cent over this time last year.

The NDP also enjoyed a slight uptick in voter intentions — with 45 per cent of respondents saying they'd vote for the government if

an election was held today. A full 40 per cent of respondents, however, were either undecided or did not plan to vote.

"The trend in terms of satisfaction with what the government's doing is trending upwards," said CRA CEO Don Mills. "And it actually starts to translate into more voter support, and that's what I'm seeing."

A number of big-ticket items have fallen in place for the NDP over the last quarter — the federal government committed to fund part of the new convention centre, a loan guarantee for the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project and, of course, a \$25-billion shipbuilding contract.

Methodology

► The CRA poll surveyed 802 voting-aged Nova Scotians over 20 days in November, and has a margin of error of 3.5 per cent.

The provincial government's efforts had little to do with the last item, but Mills said there's no question they've benefited from the decision.

While the NDP enjoy a comfortable lead, the situation surrounding the opposition parties is less clear. For the third straight quarter, the Progressive Conservatives (29 per cent) have polled ahead of the Liberals (22 per cent) in voter intention.

Wednesday, December 7

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Mandatory helmets proposed for slopes

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



► A skier at Ski Wentworth last February.

All skiers and snowboarders would be required to strap on a helmet before taking to the slopes under legislation introduced yesterday by the province.

Health Minister Maureen MacDonald said studies have shown that although helmet use is mandatory for children in most jurisdictions, many teens and adults tend to discard the safety measure.

She said the aim of the proposed legislation is to prevent traumatic head injuries at any age.

"Really, if we are going to get serious about helmet use and preventing traumatic brain injuries, this is the group we have to target and the way to do it is through mandatory requirements to wear helmets," said MacDonald.

The bill would also require ski-hill operators to post signs alerting people of mandatory helmet use, but MacDonald said the responsibility of wearing helmets would rest with skiers and

snowboarders.

She said that since 2000 the province has seen 11 traumatic brain injuries related to failure to wear helmets.

"This legislation puts the onus on the individual. It does not put the onus on the ski-hill operator."

MacDonald said inspectors would be hired to enforce the law, which could result in a fine of up to \$250 for each offence.

Lynne Fenerty, research nurse with the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre's division of neurosurgery, said doctors at the Halifax hospital fully endorsed the government's move.

Fenerty said research has revealed that helmet use has reduced brain injuries by up to 60 per cent.

"These injuries have lifelong consequences for patients, families and communities at large," she said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Launch date

The legislation is slated to take effect on Nov. 1, 2012, if passed.

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BOWATER MILL

Bailout legislation a 'political issue'

Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker says putting a \$50-million bailout into legislation was simply to make it easy to understand and not to put the opposition parties on the spot.

Parker unveiled legislation yesterday to "provide legal authority" for the government to implement the multimillion-dollar package to the Bowater mill in Liverpool.

But he conceded the government already has legal authority to implement the vast majority of the deal.

"The only legislative change required to enable these contributions is to the

Municipal Government Act," Parker said, referring to changes necessary to approve a municipal tax break for the mill.

Premier Darrell Dexter did not shy away from charges of playing politics yesterday.

"It's a political issue," said Dexter. "And if (the opposition wants) to oppose the investment of money in 2,000 jobs on the South Shore, I think people have a right to hear a reason why that is."

That's the narrative that's been floating around Province House since the deal was announced: parties either support the \$50-million bailout or they oppose economic development in rural Nova Scotia.

"I think it's fair to ask the members of the opposition to put their support or their opposition on the record," Dexter said.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Another bailout for NewPage?

- ▶ Dexter says NewPage, Bowater situations very different
- ▶ Province sharing info regularly with prospective NewPage buyers



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The NDP government isn't ruling out a bailout package for another beleaguered pulp and paper mill in Nova Scotia.

After unveiling legislation that would approve a \$50-million bailout for the Bowater Mersey mill in Liverpool, Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker was asked if the government would consider a similar aid package for NewPage in Port Hawkesbury.

"I think it's still in the hands of the monitor at this point, but we're willing to do what we can to protect those jobs in eastern Nova Scotia as well," said Parker, referring to the court-appointed monitor overseeing NewPage's

bankruptcy proceedings.

Duff Montgomerie, the deputy minister for the Department of Natural Resources and the head of the province's mill committee, added the province is in regular contact through the monitor, sharing their "perspective" with prospective buyers.

Premier Darrell Dexter unveiled the multimillion-dollar bailout package in Liverpool on Friday. It commits Forest Resolute Products Ltd., formerly Abitibi, to keep the mill operating for another five years.

Dexter said NewPage is a "different scenario" than Bowater — but he didn't preclude the possibility of more investment in the Port Hawkesbury mill.

"There are going to be questions that are going to arise for the government to



▶ The NewPage mill in Point Tupper.

deal with," said Dexter. "The transfer of leases, the question of whether that existing money will continue to be there, those kinds of things. And we're going to address those as part of

the court-ordered process." In September, the provincial government announced a \$15-million plan to keep NewPage's woodlot operations intact while the plant is shut down.

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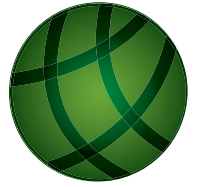
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- Ceremonies to commemorate Halifax Explosion held throughout Halifax and Dartmouth yesterday
- Dozens of people came out to mark the 94th anniversary at the Fort Needham Hill Bell Tower
- The Mont Blanc and Imo ships collided in the Halifax Harbour on Dec. 6, 1917, killing about 2,000 people and injuring another 9,000
- It was the biggest man-made explosion the world had ever seen

TEXT ALY THOMSON PHOTOS RYAN TAPLIN



The descendants



Some shared their family stories of luck or loss on Twitter.

- @lilysangster: My GGmother was 5 & on Gottingen St during #hfxexplosion. Left 4 school but returned home bc forgot mittens Said that mistake saved her life
- @kbslice: a piece of chain from the anchor blasted through my great grandparent's window in #Halifax. my family still holds onto it
- @hlaversPR: Remembering my grandfather today. He was a survivor of the #hfxexplosion. Just 4 yrs old, lost his parents & unborn sister #Halifax
- @MarniTuttle: My grandmother was 12 and at the school near the Laurie Estate (now Laurie Park) where the windows broke from the #hfxexplosion
- @StephanieLynn71: Remembering the Halifax Explosion today. Thank you Boston for helping. Hope you love your xmas tree this year :)



► Pipe sergeant Barb Stewart, from the Union Fire Club Pipes & Drums, walks up a hill towards the Fort Needham Memorial Bell Tower before a ceremony to mark the 94th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion yesterday.

Remembering a dark day



► Members of the colour guard hold flags during yesterday's ceremony.

"(My oldest brother) went to go see my grandmother but she wasn't there, and the house was completely demolished."

GEORGE SIM,
100-YEAR-OLD EXPLOSION
SURVIVOR



► Halifax Explosion survivors George Sim and Mary Murphy speak with reporters at Fort Needham park yesterday.

"I would just want people to remember and never forget what happened. It was a terrible thing for everybody who lost someone. You lost everything."

MARY MURPHY, 96-YEAR-OLD
EXPLOSION SURVIVOR

Event aims to halt acts of gender violence

► Mount Saint Vincent University has held ceremonies to bring attention to violence against women ever since 1989 Polytechnique massacre



► Elizabeth Church, vice-president, academic, at Mount Saint Vincent University, hangs a purple ribbon on a tree outside the school to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Elizabeth Church says she'll never forget the moment she heard about the 14 women murdered at École Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989.

As a university professor, she said it still hits home with each passing anniversary.

"It was, and still is, such a shocking event. You just imagine it could happen at your university," said the vice-president, academic, at Mount Saint Vincent University

"Violence against women and girls remains a serious problem, not only for in remote parts of the world, but also in our own community."

RAMONA LUMPKIN, PRESIDENT OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

yesterday.

Church was one of about 40 people who attended a ceremony at the Mount to commemorate the massacre and to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Fourteen students and faculty members lit candles, one for each of the slain women. Others hung purple ribbons on a tree

outside the university, and a few people could be seen sobbing quietly as student Torey Smith sang Reba McEntire's If I Had Only Known in a cappella.

Meagan Chaffey said the event wasn't limited to advancing women, but also about halting all acts of gender violence, including transphobia, gay-bashing, bullying and others. "Violence is so perva-

sive in our society, so I'm just here to commemorate all the women who are struggling with this on a daily basis," said Chaffey, a third-year student and manager of the university's diversity centre.

Ramona Lumpkin, president of the university, said one way of preventing violence against women is through education.

"We must use this knowledge to mobilize and make our communities safe for each human being who lives in them," Lumpkin told the crowd.

Premier promotes domestic-violence action plan

Premier Darrell Dexter took an opportunity to push the province's plan to address domestic violence yesterday at Province House on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The premier was on

hand to commemorate the Montreal massacre of 1989 and to reiterate the NDP's Our Domestic Violence Action Plan.

He said in a news release yesterday the plan "is a key component in fulfilling that commitment to making our com-

munities safer."

The initiative includes creating a new online information centre and a dedicated court program in Sydney, developing a family-violence and workplace program, among others.

● ALY THOMSON

CBRM mayor tweets for fairer formula

Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor John Morgan is using social media to call for a fairer provincial government equalization formula for municipalities in Nova Scotia.

Morgan tweeted on Oct. 18: "NDP supports fair funding to cause money to flow to N.S. from wealthy provinces but imposes neo-conservative concentration of wealth within N.S."

His latest tweet last Friday lifted a quote from CBRM's chief administrative officer Jerry Ryan's comments during last month's committee of the whole session when council



► CBRM Mayor John Morgan.

debated the merits of keeping its membership in the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

The mayor said his tweets shouldn't be interpreted as negative comments, since he's stating facts about the current economic climate in Cape Breton. **CAPE BRETON POST**

IMPAIRED DRIVING IN NOVEMBER

Two taxi drivers charged

Police say they charged nearly 70 people with impaired driving in November, including two HRM taxi drivers.

Of the 67 people charged, 40 were snagged by police during their patrols, eight were identified after a collision and 19 were called in by citizens, a Halifax Regional Police

release said.

Two of the drivers charged were operating taxis at the time of their arrest, and one was at more than three times the legal blood-alcohol limit of .08 per cent, police say.

In six of the cases, the drivers were three times the legal limit, and two of those cases involved drugs.

In December, MADD Canada and the province will continue the 911 campaign to encourage people to call police with information on suspected drunk drivers. ● **METRO**

News in brief

Life sentence for stabbing senior

MURDER. A 61-year-old man has been sentenced to life in prison for the stabbing death of a Cape Breton senior last fall.

James Edison Spears pleaded guilty yesterday in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Port Hawkesbury to second-degree murder in the killing of 82-year-old Angus Archie MacLean.

The elderly man was killed in his home in Colindale on Dec. 8,

2010.

Judge Simon MacDonald said Spears will have to serve at least 14 years of his sentence before being eligible for parole. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Story correction

HRWC BILL. If approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, Halifax Regional Water Commission customers will notice an extra \$5.75 on their bills each month starting on June 1, 2012.

Incorrect information appeared in Tuesday's Metro. ● **METRO**

Violence

Between 2000 and 2009, there were 25 family-related homicides in Nova Scotia, and most of the victims were women, a news release said.

Congo's election voted ... a mess

► Results delayed amid chaos
► President's legal mandate has to be extended ► Americans told to stay home, violence feared

Congo — and its mishap-scarred election — was in limbo yesterday.

Officials announced a 48-hour delay in the publication of election results from last week's disputed presidential ballot — causing protests.

The government dispatched helicopters to the remote corners of the country to pick up missing tally sheets.

And the clock stopped on Joseph Kabila's presidency.

The threat of unrest hung over the troubled capital, Kinshasa, and international airlines cancelled their flights amid fears over violence.

The U.S. Embassy or-

dered its staff and their families not to leave their residences until further notice.

The American School of Kinshasa will be closed.

The 48-hour delay was all but inevitable following an election that was marred by massive technical glitches.

Some ballots didn't reach polling stations until three days after the vote was supposed to take place.

And even though it was clear that the election commission was not prepared for last week's ballot, the government rushed ahead with the election because the president's five-year term was



► Police form a barricade outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto yesterday behind people protesting Congo's botched election. Three people were arrested. Protesters said the election was fixed and the world is not acting.

set to expire at midnight last night.

The 48-hour delay means Kabila will be staying in office past his legal mandate — and analysts

worry the country could slide into a situation of unconstitutional power.

"As we haven't yet been able to receive the tally sheets from all 60,000

polling stations in the country, we decided to push back the publication by 48 hours," said Matthieu Mpita of the National Independent Elec-

toral Commission.

"It was our objective to make the deadline," he said, "but we need all the elements."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man accused in lesbian custody struggle

A man who U.S. officials say helped a woman leave the country with her daughter to avoid giving custody to her former lesbian partner surrendered yesterday to face charges he aided in international parental kidnapping.

It's alleged Kenneth Miller, 46, arranged passage for Lisa Miller to travel to Canada before flying with her daughter in 2009 to Nicaragua, where she was sheltered for a time by Mennonite missionaries.

Kenneth Miller appeared in U.S. District Court in Vermont and was

released, said U.S. Attorney Tristram Coffin.

His attorney, Brooks McArthur, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Lisa Miller and Janet Jenkins moved to Vermont to be joined in a civil union in 2000.

Two years later, Miller gave birth to Isabella, conceived through artificial insemination.

The couple split in 2003, with Miller renouncing homosexuality and becoming a Christian.

After the breakup, a judge gave Lisa Miller cus-



► Lisa Miller, left, and Janet Jenkins. Their relationship ended.

tody of the girl but ordered regular visits with Jenkins in Vermont.

Miller defied court visitation orders for several years.

In 2009 a Vermont judge turned custody of the child over to Jenkins.

Prosecutors say Lisa Miller and the child travelled to Nicaragua in 2009 before the handover could take place.

If convicted of aiding in international parental kidnapping, Kenneth Miller could be sentenced to three years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Engagement ring saved me from grave: Woman

A Polish woman has told a British jury how she used her engagement ring to free herself after her boyfriend tried to bury her alive.

Michalina Lewandowska accuses him of attacking her with a Taser, binding her with tape, and

putting her in a cardboard box that he buried.

Lewandowska, 27, said she used her ring to cut the tape, then tore apart the box, which was buried in 10 centimetres of soil.

Her partner is charged with attempted murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liberals keep sex in bullying law

The Liberal government says it's not prepared to abandon the sex-ed component of a pending anti-bullying law.

The pledge comes despite criticism by religious leaders that the component is an affront to family values.

Christians, Jews and

Muslim representatives say they agree bullies must be stopped, but they can't condone a requirement that schools promote sexual tolerance through gay clubs.

Charles McVety, of the Institute for Canadian Values, says Premier Dalton McGuinty is using bullying

Premier's pledge

► Premier Dalton McGuinty also defended the legislation, saying all Roman Catholic schools will be required to have a gay-straight alliance, though they won't have to use that name.

to advance "his radical sex education agenda."

Education Minister Laurel Broten rejected criticisms as "homophobic."

She said her job is to make sure every child finds school a warm and inviting place, regardless of sexual orientation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NASA's search for E.T. is back on

- 🔴 News of 'Earth's twin' has science world excited
- 🔴 Planet called Kepler-22b may be able to support life
- 🔴 NASA reports 54 potential Earth-like candidates

The first confirmed planet that could be “Earth’s twin” seems to have a lot going for it.

It apparently has a comfy 21 C surface temperature, a rocky surface, an ocean, a sun to orbit and a position smack in the middle of the habitable "Goldilocks" zone in relation to that sun (neither too hot nor too cold).

All this is sheer scientific speculation about the planet called Kepler-22b, but it's enough to make NASA celebrate.

"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at NASA's Washington headquarters.

"I think there are two things that are really exciting about Kepler-22b," said Natalie Batalha, the deputy science team leader at



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



NASA's Ames Research Center. "One is that it's right in the middle of this habitable zone.

"The second thing that's really exciting is it's orbiting a star very, very similar to our own sun. This is a solar analogue, almost a solar twin, very similar to our own sun

and you've got a planet 2.4 times the size of the Earth right smack in the habitable zone."

The Kepler-22b discovery is a prime example of why SETI needs to keep going, said senior scientist Jill Tarter. The project costs \$100,000 a month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

“The tremendous growth in the number of Earth-size candidates tells us that we’re honing in on the planets Kepler was designed to detect: those that are not only Earth-size, but also are potentially habitable.”

**NATALIE BATALHA, DEPUTY SCIENCE TEAM LEADER
AT NASA'S AMES RESEARCH CENTER**

News in brief

Police recover 2 stolen dogs

Police say two of four British bulldog puppies stolen from an Ajax, Ont., store have been recovered. Police say someone forced their way into The Puppy Store early Monday and made off with the four puppies.

Investigators located one of the pups — valued at \$2,000 each — for sale on the Internet website Kijiji. That led to the arrest of two people at a

Toronto restaurant and the recovery of one puppy. A second puppy was found during a raid on an Ajax home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor missing in Arctic

Search teams are still looking for the mayor of an Arctic hamlet who hasn't been seen since he went caribou hunting alone 10 days ago.

Jamesie Kootoo, who is 67, is both mayor and coroner for the Baffin Island community of Kimmirut in Nunavut.

Kootoo is an experienced hunter and

has been missing before — the last time he had a fractured pelvis and still survived.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man dies in bike crash

Authorities say an 18-year-old Washington state man is dead after he crashed his motorcycle a half-hour after passing his motorcycle-licence test.

Bellingham police spokesman Mark Young says David Swift had just passed a car and was waving on his brother when he lost control, hit a curb and slid.

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Soviets charted our Arctic seas

- Cold War fears confirmed: Subs patrolled the North
- Their maps were more detailed than Canadian ones

Shades of Red October.

Cold-War-era nautical charts appear to support the widely held belief that Soviet nuclear submarines routinely patrolled the Canadian Arctic during the Cold War.

What's more, the charts are still in use by Russian vessels because they are more detailed than Canadian ones.

"I can't help but think back to The Hunt For Red October, where Sean Connery plays the captain of a Soviet nuclear missile submarine and relies on the accuracy of Soviet charts to avoid a torpedo that's been shot at his ship," said Arctic expert Michael Byers.

300
"At the current rate of charting, it will take 300 years for the Canadian Hydrographic Service to bring all our charts for the Canadian archipelago to world standards," said Michael Byers.

ers. "These charts indicate that the Soviets were in fact that competent."

Photos of the charts, seen by The Canadian Press, suggest Russian mariners have for decades possessed detailed knowledge of crucial internal wa-

terways such as the Northwest Passage.

The charts, covering strategic Arctic waterways, appear to be clearly marked with Soviet insignia, including the red star and the hammer and sickle.

Byers said: "The Soviet navy was extremely capable and also was willing to take considerable risk."

"Sending submarines into the Canadian archipelago, which was heavily monitored by NATO, thousands of miles away from Soviet assistance, was a perilous thing to do."

"It was a phenomenal accomplishment."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Tim's time



► Lisa Frye, a civilian member of the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Programs Division who worked at the Tim Hortons in Kandahar, holds a box of the last Timbits to be made there. She arrived in Edmonton yesterday.

HEATHER MACINTYRE/METRO

Timbits? Just call 'em spoils of war

After the Tim Hortons in Kandahar, Afghanistan, closed last month, those who had worked there decided to bake up some keepsakes. And so, the last batch of Timbits ever made there landed at the Edmonton airport yesterday on a flight bringing not only soldiers home but also many civilians who staffed the store. The Timbits were frozen and will be kept as war souvenirs — somehow.

An app for Ronnie Mac

Ronald McDonald House has launched Kidscape on iTunes, an app made by kids to help kids.

It's a gaming app featuring images drawn by kids staying at Ronald McDonald Houses — for families of kids being treated at area hospitals.

App prices: Kidscape City for \$0.99, Kidscape Farm for \$4.99 and Kidscape Space for \$19.99.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Issue won't go away

Stephen Harper heads to the White House today to unveil a long-awaited border security agreement with U.S. President Barack Obama.

But the fate of the \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline is sure to be discussed at some point.

The project was shelved at least temporarily by the Obama administration a month ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women mourn massacre victims, Tories not welcome

Hundreds of women gathered on Parliament Hill yesterday to mark the slaying of 14 women in Montreal 22 years ago.

They are angry with the Harper government over its decision to abolish the long-gun registry.

Conservatives were not invited to the event.

Gun control advocate Wendy Cukier said the Dec. 6 anniversary of the

"We have to stand together like today, bravely, against a government that is turning back the clock on women's rights."

NDP LEADER NYCOLE TURMEL

mass shooting at the École Polytechnique has a dual

meaning. "More than ever before, we must mourn but we must also work for change," she told the crowd, many waving placards with "Save the gun registry" slogans.

Friends and relatives of the slain women placed roses into an urn and posters bearing their smiling faces were held aloft by the crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students to be occupied

Occupy demonstrations will be the focal point of a new university course being offered in Calgary.

Starting in January, Mount Royal University assistant professor Roberta Lexier will begin teaching the Occupy Wall Street course.

"It really demonstrates that the issues we are dealing (with) in our world are not simple," she said.

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Santa promising less in poor economy

► Those playing the jolly bearded one during the holidays are hearing more from kids about tough times

A job for their mom or dad. Money for the heating bill. Food or a place to live. Maybe gloves or boots.

More and more, Santas say the children on their laps are asking for less — and Santa is promising less as well.

With unemployment in the U.S. stubbornly high, more homes in foreclosure and the economic outlook dim, many children who visit Santa are all too

aware of the struggle to make ends meet.

"These children understand the conditions around the home when they ask for stuff. They understand when there are other children in the family, they need to be cautious or thoughtful of them as well and not ask for 10 to 12 items," said Richard Holden, a 69-year-old Santa from Gastonia, N.C.

Cliff Snider, who's been

playing Santa since he was a teenager, agrees.

"I think the parents are saying, 'It's an economic thing. Just list two to three things you really want to have,'" he said. "Parents are trying to encourage the children to be thrifty."

"Families are teaching their children to be as much of a giver as a receiver," said Tom Valent, dean of the Howard Santa school in Midland, Mich., which gets more than 3,000 letters to Santa a year and just graduated its 75th class.

A mother of five, Starlight Fonseca has been teaching her children, ages 5 to 14, "that we're not the only ones who have to cut things back. We're not the only ones struggling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Santa Claus gets a kiss on the cheek from Bella Champion, 3, during a Christmas photo shoot at the Beach Shack in Emerald Isle, N.C.

Market moment

TSX



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Dollar



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Some doctors *are* permitted to limit their practices to specific types of patients. These doctors have specific skills, or a focus on treating certain types of patients, such as women, children, or elderly people. In addition, most medical specialists usually see only patients who are referred to them by another doctor.

For more information, see *Common Questions about Doctors, Non-insured Services, Prescriptions and Medical Records* at www.cpsns.ns.ca/info.aspx



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BAH, HUMBUG? BLAME DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS

JUST
SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Yikes!

It's only the first week of December and I'm already suffering from an overdose of

yule. Barely a minute goes by before some company, be it Mercedes Benz or Victoria's Secret, tries to twist my Christmas goodwill into cash at the till. Santa Claus is more common than the cold, and any turkey that survived Thanksgiving is sure to be done like dinner by Dec. 25.

I blame Charles Dickens, who turns 200 not long after Christmas — Feb. 7, 2012, to be precise. Well, actually he's dead and has been since 1870. But the man who wrote A Christmas Carol is no less responsible for Christmas as we know it.

As you know, as it's impossible to avoid, A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable old fart who sees the error of his ways thanks to being haunted by three very memorable ghosts on Christmas Eve, and

becomes an improbably wonderful, kind, generous friend to all, especially to Tiny Tim, his clerk's frail little son.

Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol. Dickens reintroduced warmth into what had become mainly a religious holiday by immortalizing

family feasts, greeting cards, seasonal food and drink, fun and games, and an SUV under every tree.

Even though it was published in 1843, A Christmas Carol is not going away soon. There are 200 million copies in print. It's been made into a movie at least 20 times, the most recent being the 2009 Disney 3-D version starring Jim Carey as Scrooge.

We are bombarded by the imagery and iconography of this Dickensian Christmas. Holly, yule logs, crackling fires (where would we be without the 24-7 fireplace channel on cable?), gift giving, carols and the like have been co-opted into an orgy of commercial excess that now begins on or about Halloween, another festival with pagan roots that's completely out of control.

If we don't spend more to achieve the perfect Dickensian Christmas this year than we did last year, business commentators scold us for lacking consumer confidence and the market drops.

I suspect that Dickens, if confronted with this spectacle, would exclaim, "Bah, humbug" in his best Scrooge, and storm off into the night. After all, despite the vast sums made from the conversion of Scrooge, Dickens only ever saw profits that would equate to a mere \$138,275.10 today.

Of course he was the first to try and cash in, writing a Christmas piece in every subsequent year and featuring Scrooge at many of his profitable public readings.

He may have been the first, but he won't be the last. God bless us, everyone.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



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OPPOSITION

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LATER

Local tweets



► @YHZ
NautiGirl: That
helicopter I
hear

downtown can mean only
1 thing: #PeterMacKay is
heading to the Lower
Deck! #CdnPoli #Halifax
► @HalifaxRainmen: Some
people have Twitter
accounts just to hate on us
and our org. Those people
KNOW exactly who they
are! guess we must be do-
ing something right if we
have haters

► @ajlburke: Just saw on Bar-
rington: guy in a dapper
top hat, woman in shorts
in December, and a guy de-

living pizzas in an Infini-
ti. #Halifax

► @elvisaaropetri: #Halifax
Oval naming rights should
go to the firm that figures
out how to use rotational
force of skaters to power
an electric generator.

► @oniononiononion: Hali-
fax is too warm for my fall
peacoat. Whaaaaat! I'm
sweating in a tee shirt.

► @mullosity: WHAT is that
huge dead bird on the 101
by #bayerslake? That thing
is enormous! #dino ? #Hal-
ifax

► @TeamAdam76: Our May-
or is cranky - think he
would be more relaxed, he
only has 11 months left on
the job. #HRM #halifax

WILFREDO LEE PHOTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daily Zoom

Florida crocs make a comeback



A tale of two forces

A wildlife biologist holds a small crocodile that will be released into one of the cooling canals adjacent to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead, Fla.

An unexpected but fruitful relationship has blossomed between the American crocodile and the nuclear power plant.

The crocodile-monitoring program began in 1978, a year after employ-

ees stumbled upon a crocodile nest in the plant's cooling canal system. It turns out that Florida Power and Light was building prime croc habitat just as virtually every other developer was paving it over.

Wildlife officials give the state's largest public utility part of the credit for a five-fold increase in the species' population in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 Wildlife biologists use an Avid Microchip Scanner to scan the stomach of a small crocodile. Microchips are used as a reference ID, much like a thumb print, to scan the captured animal, as well as to track any animal that falls prey to others as a result of cannibalism. Biologists said one crocodile was found with eight chips inside its belly.

Endangered

A wildlife biologist measures a small crocodile.

► South Florida's rampant development eroded the crocodile's habitat over decades of booming growth. By the 1970s, there were less than 300 in the state. The federal government had classified the species as endangered, meaning it was in danger of becoming extinct.

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scene

Mueller



A Colorado judge will let actor Charlie Sheen's ex-wife, Brooke Mueller, to return to California following her arrest in Aspen on assault and drug charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer star in the romantic comedy New Year's Eve.

Big screen milestones

► Efron celebrates sharing a movie kiss with Michelle Pfeiffer ► They star in New Year's Eve

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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

While New Year's Eve isn't the first time Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron have crossed paths on screen — they had a few choice scenes in 2007's *Hairspray* — it does mark an important milestone in their professional relationship, at least as far as Efron is concerned.

"I met Michelle a few

years ago, during *Hairspray*, and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot. I didn't really know what to say to her, and everything just came out wrong," Efron remembers. "I didn't know what to do. I was very shy. But then I got to talk on the phone with her about this part, I remember. And she

said, 'I think we should take this to the next level. We should really push it. Let's get a kiss in there.' And I was like, 'I'm in! I'm in this movie, sign me up. Let's do it.'"

In the film, another romantic comedy omnibus in the style of Valentine's Day from director Gary Marshall, Pfeiffer stars as Ingrid, a mild-mannered office drone brought out of her shell by Efron's brash bike messenger.

"I'm the envy of every

girl across the planet, I think. I got a kiss in there with Zac Efron. Pretty clever of me, at the ripe old age of 53," Pfeiffer says.

Efron is the eternal optimist, though, despite having to battle the elements during filming.

"On the plus side, it was basically us snuggling very close. So it was kind of nice," he says of the frigid conditions. "I felt very comforted."

For Efron, the biggest challenge in the film arose

when it came time to finally get that kiss with Pfeiffer.

"I remember I was in my hotel room the night before, imagining how I was going to kiss her, and it was awesome. I was the man in every way," he says.

"And then I went to execute on the day, and right when I got to the crucial moment a huge piece of confetti flew right into my mouth."

Better luck next year.

SITTING THROUGH A FAMILIAR FILM

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Wikipedia says "babysitting is commonly performed as an odd job by teenagers

for extra money." While that is undoubtedly the stereotype, the movies

have shown us that babysitters come in all shapes and sizes.

This weekend Jonah Hill plays an irresponsible college student who reluctantly looks after his neighbour's wild kids. How wild is it? Well, let's put it this way; I don't think Nanny McPhee had a "red band" trailer.

If it sounds familiar, it should. Twenty-four years ago babysitter Elisabeth Shue led her young

charges through the streets of Chicago in *Adventures in Babysitting*. At one point they end up on a nightclub stage. The leader of the house band, played by blues legend Albert Collins, says, "Nobody leaves this place without singing the blues."

After an awkward pause she improvises the *Babysitting Blues*.

"It's so hard babysitting these guys," she

sings. "And they should be in bed," replies the guitar player over a classic blues-rock riff.

The most lovable movie minder has to be John Candy as Uncle Buck. Even though he pretends to be capable of mutilation with power tools, he's less violent than Rebecca De Mornay in *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, manlier than Robin Williams in *Mrs. Doubtfire* and more alive

than all the babysitters in *Halloween*.

In the movie's most famous scene he answers a barrage of questions from his nephew, played by Macaulay Culkin.

On the day of filming the younger actor couldn't remember all the questions, so Candy wrote them out and hid them where Culkin could read them. Now that's something a great babysitter would do.



Rango, Rio, Puss, Tintin earn Annie nominations for best animated film

The Shore gets another scent

► JWOWW is latest celeb to release signature fragrance
► 'Sexy perfume' reeks of classy rebranding, 'the shore'

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONWS.CA



Not to be outdone by fellow Jersey Shore cast-member Snooki releasing her own perfume, busty reality star JWOWW is releasing her own signature fragrance, too.

The perfume, also called JWOWW, comes out just in time for the holiday season, retailing at such choice outlets as Kmart, Amazon.com and JWOWW-Perfume.com.

According to the press release, JWOWW is a "sexy perfume inspired by days and nights down the shore" (note the New Jersey colloquialism "down the shore," which means "at the beach").

Just in case we can fool ourselves into thinking this scent wasn't created by a bunch of Chinese child labourers mixing together



► Jenni "JWOWW" Farley attends the MTV Europe Music Awards 2011 last month in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

a bunch of synthetic compounds into something resembling "sweet," there's even a hilarious run down of the "notes" in the \$29.99 bottle:

Top notes: Anjou pear, sparkling citron, fresh air
Middle notes: Rose petals, geranium blossom, sheer muguet

Bottom notes: Sandalwood, deep musk, white moss

A tiny gold JWOWW

charm adorns the sleek bottle, which was also created by JWOWW.

I love that "fresh air" is included as one of the predominant "notes," in place of, say, "vomit after a night of Red Bull, 2 a.m. chicken wings, and half a case of Miller Lite," which is what I think of when we think of smells "inspired by days and nights down the shore."

Daddy Aniston likes Theroux

Justin Theroux has gotten the stamp of approval from Jennifer Aniston's dad.

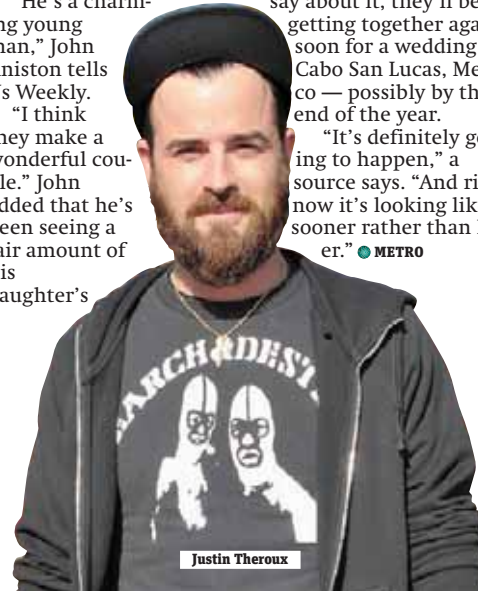
"He's a charming young man," John Aniston tells Us Weekly.

"I think they make a wonderful couple." John added that he's been seeing a fair amount of his daughter's

boyfriend, as they "get together whenever we can."

And if OK! Magazine's sources have anything to say about it, they'll be getting together again soon for a wedding in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico — possibly by the end of the year.

"It's definitely going to happen," a source says. "And right now it's looking like sooner rather than later." • METRO



Justin Theroux

Celebrity tweets



Had a great celebrity sighting today: the @DalaiLama at Chipotle.



@ConanOBrien

@joelmchale

Contest: find the account on twitter w/the fewest # of followers & the largest number of tweets. Prize: DVD of the Chevy Chase's Karate Dog.



@simonpegg

Slightly confusing doing press for two films simultaneously. Keep talking about Ethan Hunt's faithful canine sidekick, Snowy.



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3 life

Travel in brief



Readers of Global Traveler magazine have voted Air Canada the best airline in North America. The award is based on responses from more than 36,000 readers of the magazine. Global Traveler readers are frequent premium travellers who average 32 round-trip flights a year, with 78 per cent travelling in first or business class regularly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ski resorts around world use artist's hand-painted panoramas in their trail maps

First Tango in Buenos Aires



EMMA E. FORREST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

I've been in Buenos Aires for less than an hour and already I'm feeling the bizarre atmosphere of addiction and romance that's at the heart of the world of tango.

"It used to be just Argentines who danced tango," my taxi driver is enthusing. "Now people come from Australia, Canada, Europe... even Korea and Japan."

Tango attracts particularly dedicated — not to

say fanatical — followers and for millions of people the Argentine capital has become the ultimate place of pilgrimage.

Private tango tuition rather than group classes is considered a must, so I'm partnered with fellow tango-virgin, Turkish TV presenter Asli Pelit, for my first foray into the dance. We take our first tentative baby steps as tangueros on Susana Mirosnik's little terrace as steaks sizzle on the parilla (barbecue), which will be a welcome reward for our efforts.

Susana has been danc-

ing tango for more than 20 years and is one of the most well-known faces in the tango scene here. "You must learn to walk before you can dance," she says as she shows us how to move. "A graceful walk is the very basics of the dance."

We move in carefully measured circles around the terrace and begin to grasp the meditative aspect that aficionados claim is the essence of the tango experience.

Some come to Buenos Aires to watch spectacular tango exhibitions or to spend a fortune on months

of private lessons. Some dedicated pilgrims come simply to immerse themselves in the serenity of the milongas. These are traditional local dances where the purest tango can be found, and Susana guides us to a milonga at La Nacional.

Under Susana's guidance I'm at least able to appreciate the under-stated subtleties of milonga footwork. I might only be on my first steps to tango expertise but it feels good to be able to say that I have at least learned to really walk in Buenos Aires.

TAKES THREE TO TANGO



LEARN

Susana Mirosnik is arguably the best contact to set up tango lessons in Buenos Aires. Her company Su Tours can also arrange everything from tango instructions to accommodation and tours. sutours.blogspot.com



PARTIES

Some of the most recommended milongas — traditional local tango dances — are La Nacional, El Arranque and La Ideal. Milongas cost around \$5 admission. buenosaires-milongas.com



SHOWS

The most famous and spectacular tango shows can be seen at Rojo Tango (from \$220; rojo-tango.com), at La Ventana Tango (from \$90; tangotix.com) and La Esquina Carlos Gardel (esquinacarlosgardel.com.ar).

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*Subject to Ocular Care Services (OCS) medical approval. Patients must receive their procedure on January 15, 2012 and complete their surgery by February 28, 2012. In order to be eligible for this offer, patients must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license. Patients are subject to change without prior notice and only based on individual circumstances. OCS is available at 31 locations. Appointment is required. *Both eyes only. Other conditions may apply.

Season was made for cookies

► The holidays are all about tasty sweets and treats ► These can be frozen for up to 1 month

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



These cookies not only can be enjoyed fresh but they freeze well and are perfect to share at a cookie exchange.

Preparation:

1 In bowl, whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, soda and salt; set aside.

2 In bowl beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and sour cream. Stir espresso powder into vanilla, add to butter mix; beat to combine.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and soda
- Pinch salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 1 tsp (5 mL) instant espresso powder
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) cocoa nibs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar

3 Stir in flour mix and stir until combined. Stir in cocoa nibs and chocolate chips until combined. Roll level tablespoon (15 mL) of dough into a ball and roll into icing sugar and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in centre of 350 F (180 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until top is cracked and firm to

the touch. Repeat with remaining dough. Let cool in pan on rack.

Holiday prep

► We're here to help Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind less stressful.



► This recipe makes about four dozen cookies.

Drink of the week

Clementine Rosemary Martini

- 2 oz dry gin
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 1 clementine, quartered
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 tsp lemon simple syrup
- Candied lemon peel

Muddle clementine, including peel, with needles from rosemary sprig. Add other ingredients, shake with ice, and strain into cold martini glass. Garnish with another sprig and a small amount of candied lemon peel.

Note: To make candied lemon peel and simple syrup, peel 3 lemons (avoiding white pith) and thinly slice. Boil strips with 500 mL water and 2 cups sugar until lemon turns translucent. Strain lemon out and let dry on baking tray. Add little water to leftover lemon syrup if needed. **JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER**



Dip into a perfect-for-the-holidays snack

► You can feel good about serving this creamy Walnut Spinach Dip at your next get-together ► It's rich in iron

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO



► This recipe makes about 625 mL (2 1/2 cups) of dip.

snack or as an eye-catching appetizer.

You can also use the dip as a garnish on baked or roasted potatoes or as a spread on turkey or chicken sandwiches.

Preparation:

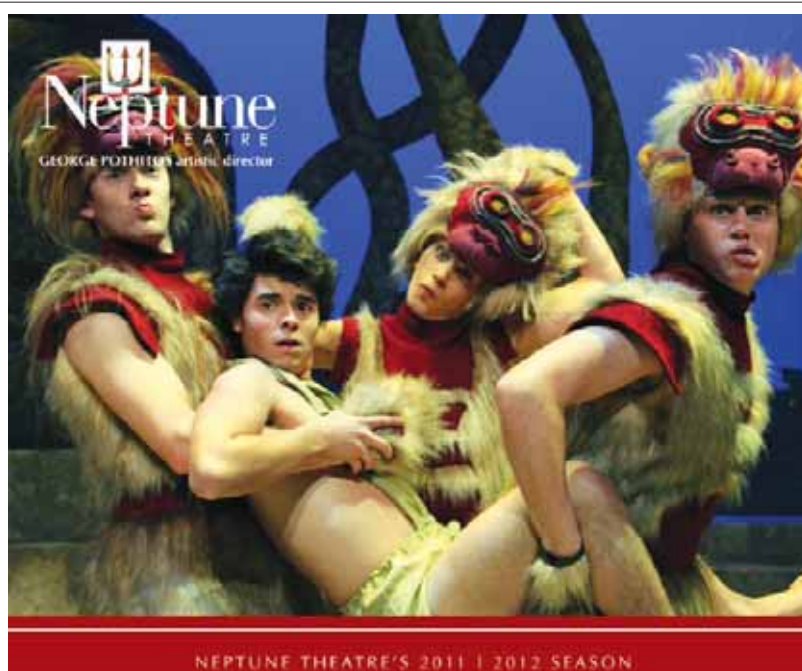
1 In a bowl, stir together spinach, cottage cheese, walnuts, yogurt, dill, soy sauce, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, hot sauce, onion and garlic powder until well combined. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/
CALIFORNIA WALNUTS, WALNUTINFO.COM/
ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDS-COOKS.CA.

Stick to a healthy eating regimen even during the holidays with iron-rich walnut spinach dip made with low-fat yogurt, crum-

bled walnuts and chopped spinach.

Serve it with freshly cut vegetables and whole-grain crackers for a filling



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STUDENT VOICE

ASAD CHISHTI
TALENTEGG.CA

The more I want something, the less I call it work.

There is, in my experience, no reason in this day and age for you to be working at a place or doing

something you don't enjoy.

The career you do want to pursue requires now, more than ever, that you create your own experience.

Too many of my friends all across Canada are struggling after graduation to find work, struggling during university to find placements that aren't voluntary



► Asad Chishti encourages employers to take note of a student's involvement in extra-curricular activities rather than simply considering their work experience.

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Vincent van Gogh goes to school

A Canada wide school project with great opportunities

Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands

Ever heard of a guy called Vincent van Gogh? The famous Dutch artist who was born more than 150 years ago in the Netherlands and who became known as an innovator in the art world. If you have heard of him, did you ever wonder how it would be to follow in his footsteps and use your own creativity just as he did? The Netherlands Embassy and its network in Canada invite teachers and students to participate in the "Vincent van Gogh goes to school" project, which will run from February – June 2012. The project is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years old. Both elementary and high schools can join.

The school project coincides with Vincent's visit to Canada in the spring of 2012: the National Gallery of Canada, located in the capital Ottawa, will host "Van Gogh: Up Close" from May 25 – September 3 (2012). It will be the first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist for more than 25 years.

Useful teacher's kit

Join us right now and we will send a teacher's kit including the "See and Do Children's Book" from Ceciel de Bie and Martijn Leenen, a dvd about the life of "Vincent van Gogh" to use in a classroom setting. The teacher's kit will be distributed on a first come first served principle: last entries no later than January 17, 2012.

Learn, explore and experience

• Learn together with schools in the Netherlands that are participating in this project and would like to connect with schools in Canada.

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - www.dutchmissions.com

- **Explore** possibilities of the "Vincent van Gogh goes to school" project in your own class: it is not just about art per se. Van Gogh can be a history project, a biology project or even a language class.
- **Experience** the Netherlands and discover interesting facts about the Dutch, their country and the friendship with Canada.

Make: with your classmates and with the support of your teacher – an awesome painting of sunflowers; write a letter to Vincent; or, how about using your creativity to produce a movie, a rap, a comic, a poster, a board game or a picture? Increase your chances to win by uploading a video, a song, or a picture to the specially designed Ivincentincanada Facebook page from the Netherlands Embassy. Students can also sign up individually, and will be organized in the appropriate age category. The Sun Flowers – age group 6 – 10; The Irises – age group 10 – 13 and The Wild Roses – age group 13 – 16.

Are you in?

For more information on this project, to register and to receive the kit, send an email to: ott_ppc@minbuza.nl
For all the details about the contest: scan the QR code or go to Facebook.com/thenetherlandsincanada



for their co-op terms, and are trying to find work in the summer and being turned down from hundreds of job postings relevant to their field of study.

As a second year engineering chemistry student at Queen's University, I'm not sure what the future holds for my career path.

Some of the graduates from my program go into consulting, some go into research and development, a few outliers become entrepreneurs — most return to school for graduate studies.

But it seems like to get a job, networking matters. The jobs that I've held have been both part-time and referred to me by people who worked there.

It is no surprise that fresh undergraduates are now competing not only among each other but also among more qualified, more experienced veterans

of the job industry.

It's important to find an edge over the competition and to stand out by creating an outlet for your passion and future career. I believe we can take charge of our own future by getting involved now.

Because I think it's very important to dabble and supplement my studies with as many skills as possible, and I'm very involved in extra-curricular activities. I'm the assistant photo editor for the Queen's Journal, Canada's second oldest newspaper.

I help run an annual independently-organized TED talks event, TEDxQueensU.

Along with this, I've founded and am currently the chapter President of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) Queen's University Chapter.

Employers need to look past the grades and the degrees. Students should be hired based on their ability to learn, not based on what they've already learned.

Watch out for the students who are already taking on different roles and establishing relationships. The university experience is not just about your transcript, it's about the people you meet and the opportunities you have as an individual to grow outside the classroom setting.

TALENTECC.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTECC.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Asad's experience

- Don't be afraid to be non-traditional, to step outside of the classroom and learn from there.
- Your grades do matter of course, but university is also about the friends you find and the relationships that bind.
- Keep your options open, get involved early and if you can't find an opportunity, create one.



AUS Basketball

Standings

MEN				
	4W	2W	L	P
ST. F.X.	2	3	0	14
UPEI	0	6	0	12
CAPE BRETON	1	3	2	10
ACADIA	2	0	3	8
UNB	2	0	4	8
SAINT MARY'S	1	1	5	6
DALHOUSIE	0	1	4	2
MEMORIAL	0	1	5	2
WOMEN				
	4W	2W	L	P
SAINT MARY'S	3	3	1	18
ACADIA	2	2	1	12
MEMORIAL	2	2	2	12
DALHOUSIE	1	1	3	6
CAPE BRETON	0	3	3	6
ST. F.X.	0	2	3	4
UPEI	0	1	5	2
UNB	0	1	5	2

4W — FOUR-POINT WINS; 2W — TWO-POINT WINS

AUS Hockey

Standings

MEN				
	W	L	O	P
UNB	11	2	1	23
SAINT MARY'S	10	5	1	21
MONCTON	10	4	0	20
ACADIA	9	5	1	19
UPEI	8	6	0	16
ST. F.X.	5	7	3	13
ST. THOMAS	3	9	2	8
DALHOUSIE	2	11	1	5
WOMEN				
	W	L	O	P
MONCTON	10	1	0	20
ST. F.X.	9	2	0	18
UPEI	6	5	0	12
MOUNT ALLISON	5	4	2	12
ST. THOMAS	4	6	1	9
DALHOUSIE	3	7	1	7
SAINT MARY'S	1	8	1	3



► Huskies point guard Justine Colley was named Atlantic University Sport female athlete of the week yesterday.

SMU hopes 'great start' means great second half

► Colley, Huskies off to 6-1 start at Atlantic University Sport mid-season break ► Saint Mary's seeks first AUS championship since 1977



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Saint Mary's Huskies women's basketball team is off to a good start in its bid to stop a championship drought at 34 years.

At the Atlantic University Sport mid-season break, the Huskies — led by Justine Colley, the country's top scorer — have won six straight games and are comfortably atop the conference with a 6-1 record.

While East Preston's Colley is more than three

points ahead of the nation's next best scorer with her impressive 24.9 points-per-game average, the Huskies are crediting their depth and balance for their success.

"Even though Justine is leading the country in scoring, we've been able to distribute the scoring quite a bit," said Huskies head coach Scott Munro, who is in his third season. "We've really spread it out. When people are called on to step up and perform, they've done it."

The Huskies have 10 players averaging at least

11 minutes in floor time, while Colley and two others average double figures in scoring.

Six-foot forward Susanne Canvin has been the primary source of secondary offence, averaging 14 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Fellow six-footer Laura Langille, a rookie from Bedford, is averaging 10 points per game.

As a group, the Huskies have shot an AUS best .431 from the field.

"Last year, we were hurt by injuries and had to rely on some kids for heavy minutes," Munro said.

"We've really reduced those this year, gotten people in and out of the lineup, and different people have performed on different nights for us."

Although the Huskies are just two wins away from last year's total of eight, Munro said improvement is needed over the final 13 games to win the program's first championship since 1977.

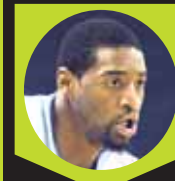
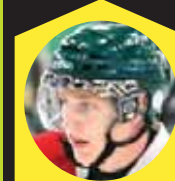
"It's a great start, but that's exactly what it is, a great start," he said. "We've got to challenge ourselves in practice and get better."

4 sports

Up and down

Nathan MacKinnon

The Cole Harbour native has been named the Halifax Mooseheads' recipient of the QMJHL's RDS mid-season rookie of the year award.



Orion Green

The veteran of 131 NBA games was released yesterday by the Halifax Rainmen to pursue a big-league job. Guard Papa Opong, who averaged 3.1 points in seven games, was also cut. **METRO**

Grant reportedly out for Vegas

Cole Harbour's T.J. Grant has been forced out of his upcoming UFC fight with an injury, according to the website MMAjunkie.com.

Grant, who has a 4-3 UFC record, was scheduled to face Jacob Volkman in a lightweight bout as part of UFC 141 on Dec. 30 in Las Vegas.

The report said Efrain Escudero is expected to replace Grant against Volk-

mann, who has a 4-2 record.

The 26-year-old Grant is coming off a victory over Shane Roller by arm-bar submission in UFC Live 6 on Oct. 1 in Washington, D.C. It was the former welterweight's debut in the lightweight class.

Grant could not be reached for comment yesterday.

● **MATTHEW WUEST**



► T.J. Grant

Sports in brief

Frk cracks Czech's WJC camp roster

QMJHL. Martin Frk has been named to the Czech Republic's preliminary roster for the IIHF world junior championship.

Frk, who has not played this season

because of a concussion, is among 27 players who are tentatively scheduled to report to Lethbridge, Alta., for a selection camp starting Dec. 17.

The 18-year-old right-winger is among 15 forwards on the roster.

Frk recorded three goals and three assists in six games at last year's world junior. He also tied for fourth in QMJHL rookie scoring with 22 goals and 28 assists for 50 points in 62 games.

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Conference shuffle gets thumbs up

► NHLers looking forward to shakeup after proposed realignment

NHL players largely seem in favour of a proposed realignment plan that will require the support of their union before taking effect next season.

The major four-conference shakeup endorsed by the NHL's Board of Governors had players abuzz in dressing rooms around the league yesterday. Some were still getting a handle on what it meant and a few

voiced concerns, but the overall reception was positive.

"It looks pretty fair," said Montreal Canadiens defenceman Hal Gill. "It's a little different. But it's not going to be perfect. Unfortunately, the map doesn't lend itself to (being) perfect. You don't want to take away too many rivalries so you have to figure it out."

The aspect of the propos-

al that elicited the most excitement from players was a new schedule matrix that includes a game in every city around the league.

Since the lockout ended in 2005, teams in the Eastern and Western Conference haven't played each other home and away each season.

"I've played almost 100 games in the league and there are still teams I haven't played yet," said Ottawa Senators forward Zack Smith. "I think it's good to get around and see everybody and go to every city. I think fans will really enjoy it as well."

One area of concern is the fact that two conferences feature eight teams while the two others have seven.

That represents a significant competitive disadvantage since the same number of teams (four) will qualify for the playoffs in each conference.

"Personally, I'd like to have the same shot at mak-

ing the playoffs as everybody else," said Flames winger Alex Tanguay. "If you're in one of those conferences that has eight teams, it's definitely going to be much tougher than (those with) seven teams to make the playoffs."


"I don't know how they can make that work. I'm sure there's a solution."

Added Vancouver Canucks forward Alex Burrows: "That's wrong for me. I'm old-school."

The realignment model proposed by the league owners on Monday night must still gain approval from the NHL Players' Association. However, that isn't expected to be a major obstacle.

An added benefit for players based in the West is the perception that the playing field will be levelled a little bit. The new plan calls for Eastern teams to be on the road more often than they have been in the recent past.


THE CANADIAN PRESS








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Champs. Chopped

► Boston goalie Tuukka Rask tries to watch the play past a cluster of Jets and Bruins players in Winnipeg last night.

MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

Jets sneak past Bruins

Ondrej Pavelec made 39 saves and Bryan Little scored the game-winner as the Winnipeg Jets beat the red-hot Boston Bruins 2-1 last night.

It was the Bruins' first regulation loss since Oct. 29, ending a 15 game stretch in which they earned 29 of a possible 30 points.

The Jets (12-11-4) moved above the .500 mark for the first time this season, and have won six of their last seven games at MTS Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Engine

The base 328i sedan's previous 230-horsepower inline six-cylinder has been replaced by a 240-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder.

The powerplant, which is also showing up in other BMW products, including the larger 5 Series and Z4 roadster, makes 260 pound-feet of torque and can propel the 3 Series sedan to 100 km/h in about six seconds, which is just a touch longer than the 335i's time. That model retains its 300-horsepower six-cylinder turbocharged engine.

Dynamics Control

Standard on all models is a Driving Dynamics Control with four different settings, according to how vigorously you wish to pilot your Bimmer. The most fuel-efficient setting is the ECO PRO mode that, when activated, cuts the horsepower to save fuel (as much as 20 per cent, according to BMW). In ECO PRO, a special instrument-panel display indicates how far the 3's range has been extended.

Fuel efficiency

An electric air conditioning compressor functions on a demand-only basis and a new feature shuts off the engine when you're stopped at intersections, red lights and other gridlock-related pauses, then instantly fires it up again when it's time to roll.

To offset the added power needs, the 3 Series features Brake Energy Regeneration. This system converts the kinetic energy produced when coasting or braking into electrical energy, which is then fed to the battery.



► Trust BMW to find a way to deal with restrictions while still providing a better car. But can the 3 Series please everyone?

BMW's franchise player hopes to remain a leader



MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Arriving in early 2012, the car that's literally "The Franchise" for BMW seems headed in an entirely new direction.

If nothing else, the 3 Series has kept up with the times, which call for significant improvements in fuel economy as well as a tread-lightly footprint that reaffirms and enhances BMW's environmental awareness.

At the same time, BMW must maintain the passion and performance that has helped its star performer maintain its top-rung status.

The 2012 3 Series walks the walk in fine style. The sleeker-looking sedan is nearly nine centimetres

longer and about five centimetres wider overall.

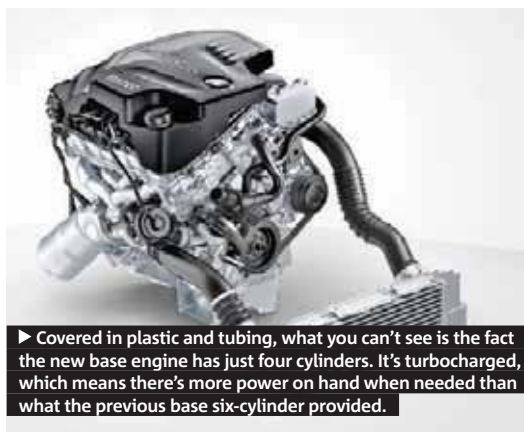
The changes to the car's basic shape mean a low-slung appearance, especially the front end that's more aerodynamic than the 2011 version.

But important for those who appreciate unrestricted views of the passing scenery, the 3 Series maintains its sensible low-waist, tall-window design along with thin roof and door pillars.

In an ever-changing environment — business and otherwise — the BMW 3 Series has adapted while still giving drivers precisely what they expect: a car that keeps up with times and continues as a technology, performance and fashion leader.



► Extra distance between the front and rear wheels means more cabin room, which is welcome because the 3 Series is not a very big car.



► Covered in plastic and tubing, what you can't see is the fact the new base engine has just four cylinders. It's turbocharged, which means there's more power on hand when needed than what the previous base six-cylinder provided.

BMW 3 Series



What you should know about the 2012 BMW 3 Series sedan:

- **Type:** Four-door, rear-wheel-drive entry-luxury sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (240); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, turbocharged (300).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; eight-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** BMW's range of 3 Series offerings are considered among the best entry-luxury sedans on the market and are frequently used by competing automakers as benchmarks for similarly targeted automobiles.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.0/6.5 (2.0, AT, est.).

5 drive

By comparison

Mercedes-Benz C-Class

Base price: \$38,000
Classy sedan offers something for everyone in content and performance.

Audi A4

Base price: \$39,300
Competent sedan with a neatly styled interior. Base turbo I4 runs strong.

Cadillac CTS

Base price: \$38,500
Sharp looks and comfy cabin keeps buyers happy. CTS-V a very quick ride.
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What can you do if you're a motorcycle enthusiast, but the weather's colder and bleaker than

the heart of a Wall Street CEO? Head to a motorcycle show.

Curiously, you can also head to a motorcycle show, if you're a beef jerky enthusiast. I don't know why beef jerky vendors always set up at the edges of any motorcy-

cle show floor, but they do, and God bless them and their dedication to the meat arts.

This winter's motorcycle/jerky show season starts this weekend in Toronto. The action will take place in the South Building of the

Metro Convention Centre, from Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal.

Avid motorcycle types know that Toronto hosts two major motorcycle shows.

The other one happens after the New Year, bills itself as the Supershow, and takes over the International Centre by the airport. No sense arguing over which one rules, let's just revel in the fact that we have two high quality cyclefests to check out when it's too chilly to ride.

Topping the list of bikes I want to check out at this weekend's show is Norton's addition to their Commando 961 line up — the Cafe Racer. Not quite as pretty as the original, but pretty darn close.

Retro is big business these days, but especially in the motorcycle industry, where the average buyer is in their mid-forties!

Where are the younger riders?

I put that question to Neil Graham, editor of Cycle Canada. While he is not sure where they are, or how big a group they currently comprise in the marketplace, he is "encouraged" at least by the industry's efforts to reach out to them. He cites all the new small, entry-level bikes currently in the marketplace. Bikes like Honda's CBR125R and CBR250R, Kawasaki's Ninja 250R and Ninja 400R, and the just released Suzuki TU250.

Women buyers are also still scarce on the ground. But Graham believes the number, however small, is at least trending up. No surprise then that the MMIC show in Toronto is "young rider" and "female rider" friendly.

She Rides Night (on Friday evening) will be a celebra-

Sked

MMIC Motorcycle Show Schedule

- ▶ **Toronto** Dec. 9-11, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.
- ▶ **Quebec City** Feb. 3-5, Centre de foires de Quebec (site ExpoCite).
- ▶ **Moncton** Feb 10-12, Moncton Coliseum Complex.
- ▶ **Montreal** Feb 24-26, Palais des congrès de Montreal.

tion of women who ride or who are considering taking up the sport.

And the Yamaha Riding Academy will be on site, to give 6-12 year olds a spin on a Yamaha TT-R off-road motorcycle, and to teach the older-folk (16 and up) how to ride a scooter. (Yamaha will also give away a motorcycle or ATV to the lucky winner of a show floor draw.) But rest assured there are plenty of testosterone-friendly events and bikes too.

Harley-Davidson will role out its heavy metal thunder, and also present an autograph session with UFC fighters Jake Shields and Brendan Schaub, and "Octagon Girl" Brittney Palmer. BMW will show off the S1000RR superbike and its new line of super scooters — the C600 Sport, and the C650T.

Honda will bring its new NC700 parallel twin, and the beautiful MV Augusta F3 675 will make its first Canadian appearance at the show.

Those are just a few of the cool bikes that make the show scene this weekend. According to MMIC there will be over 140 exhibitors. So surely something for everybody then, whatever your budget, desires, or meat eating tendencies.



MV Augusta F3 675

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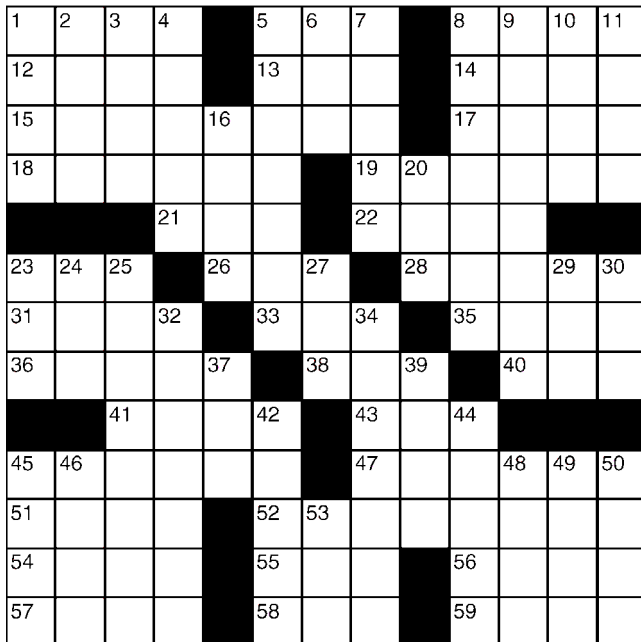
Crossword

Across

1 Houston acronym
5 Sternward
8 Streetcar
12 Winged
13 — goo gai pan
14 Like a moray
15 End of an illness
17 Performances
18 Sycophants
19 Implant
21 Help
22 Entrance
23 Melody
26 Allow
28 Wild West show
31 "Star —"
33 Flop
35 Ginormous
36 Unspoken
38 Wager
40 Decay
41 Rhyming tributes
43 Airport overseer (Abbr.)
45 Move up and down
47 Busy
51 Gumbo need
52 Flinched
54 Nasty stinger
55 Cistern
56 Journalist Lisa
57 Caustic chemicals
58 Acapulco gold
59 London gallery name

Down

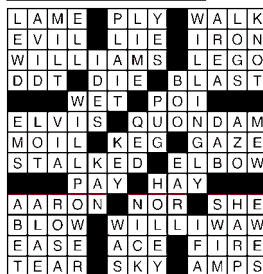
1 — a soul (nobody)
2 Sheltered
3 Pouches
4 Scent



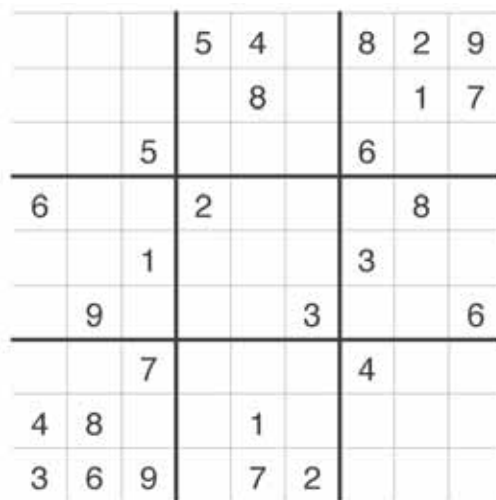
5 Rewrote the Constitution
6 Supportive of
7 Monkeyed (with)
8 Quaint restaurant
9 Flute's cousin
10 Sax range
11 1990s video game
16 Bride's cover
20 Neither partner
23 Lawyer (Abbr.)
24 Playwright Levin
25 Source of help
27 Bathroom fixture
29 Id counterpart
30 Morsel for Dobbin

32 Abducts
34 Actually
37 Sleuth, for short
39 Mexican entree
42 Electronic control system, briefly
44 At an angle
45 Cheek by —
46 Fine
48 Hip bones
49 Outlet
50 Advantage
53 Listener

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



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Haileywailey, you are the most epic person i know. I don't even know what to say, so all i can say is, i love you. From the day u stole my meesh til now. I hope you see this and know how special you are. :)

YOUR ONE AND ONLY

Peaches, Missing you so very much. Not even sure if you read these...wish I could turn back the clock & make different choices. Sorry to have caused you pain. Please find it in your heart to call, even if to say how much you hate me. God, I miss you. ME

To my friends: You guys mean so much to me. You've helped me through a lot. We have our ups and downs but our friendship is still going strong. You have my back and if you need it you know i have yours.

YOU KNOW WHO

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your critics can complain all they want, but there's no stopping you from following your dream.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you stop worrying for a moment and analyze your financial situation, you'll realize it could be worse.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A partner will say something that'll show you there's a lot about him or her you still don't understand.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Spread the load today — get others to help you. They will, if you ask them nicely.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 You don't lack confidence but common sense is just as important, so think carefully before you take a big risk.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand over the next 24 hours. Don't rise to the bait.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may be tempted to blame someone else when something goes wrong today. Instead, admit it's your fault.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Watch out that you don't waste money on trendy things you don't need today. Set your own trends.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your energy levels are high. What is your number one desire? Aim for that and nothing else.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're fearful, it won't be until the Sun moves into your sign in a fortnight that you'll feel better.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll have to be blunt with people who are unaware that you don't want to be bothered with trivia.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Whatever the upset or upheaval today, take it in stride. Don't let it faze you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Thursday

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Variable

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